[Vol. I.] THE [Numb. 1]

MIDDLESEX GAZETTE.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1785.

MIDDLETOWN: PRINTED BY WOODWARD AND GREEN, a few Rods North of the Post-Office.

To the PUBLIC.

THE Advantages of News-Papers are too well known to need a particular Recital: it may be said in general, that a well regulated News Paper furnishes a rational Entertainment for the Moments of Relaxation from Business or Labour; that it facilitates and enlivens Commerce; that it is beneficial to Agriculture and Manufactures; that it is favourable to Morals, Virtue and Literature; and, as the greatest of its Excellencies, that it is absolutely necessary for the Preservation of Freedom in a Republican Government, such a Paper supplying precisely the Place of the Censorial Power in Ancient Rome, an Office of the highest Dignity in that glorious Republic, the Execution of which required the Integrity and Wisdom of Cato. In a Word, the excellent Art of Printing enables the Publisher of such a Paper to entertain or instruct, at once, greater Multitudes than those which heard the Orators of Greece or Rome.

Influenced by a Wish to benefit the Public in this Way, and by Motives of a more selfish Nature, the Subscriber some Time ago issued Proposals for printing and publishing a Weekly Paper in this City.

It was impossible for him, at that Time, absolutely to determine to establish an Office here, as he well knew that the Business could not be supported without the Approbation and Patronage of the Respectable Public.—

It was accordingly determined to wait for their Opinion till the Beginning of October, at which Time if 500 Subscribers had appeared, or if there had then been a fair Prospect of that Number by the beginning of December, the MIDDLESEX GAZETTE *would have been immediately published.*

From the small Number of Subscribers that appeared, it was reasonable to conclude that the Public disapproved of the Design; the Subscriber felt himself incompetent to the Task of persuading them to change their Opinion, and relinquished the Undertaking.

He has now only to express, in this public Manner, his Gratitude to those Gentlemen who have honoured him by their Patronage, and to request of them that they will allow Messieurs Woodward *and* Green, *the Printers of this Paper, a Trial for their Approbation, which he is sure they will exert themselves to deserve; and he flatters himself that those Gentlemen who are connected with this City, either in a commercial or civil Regard, will receive a Benefit from the Middlesex Gazette more than equalling the Expence.*

He has the Honour to be,
very respectfully,
the Public's obedient Servant,
JOSIAH MEIGS.

Middletown, Nov. 8, 1785.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE Subscribers having, with the Consent of Mr. Meigs, established a Printing-Office in this City, are ready to perform Printing of every Kind, at reasonable Prices, and with Accuracy and Dispatch.

They beg Leave to offer the following Proposals respecting the MIDDLESEX GAZETTE.

I. IT Shall be published every *Tuesday Morning*, and delivered to Subscribers in the City.

II. IT shall be printed with a fair Type, and on good Paper.

III. IT shall be open for the candid and liberal Discussion of Moral, Political, Commercial and Literary Subjects: It shall contain such Acts of the General Assembly of this State as shall be ordered to be published: The Resolves of Congress: And as judicious a Selection of Foreign and Domestic Intelligence as the Subscribers shall be able to make.

IV. THE Price to Subscribers who have their Papers sent to them, whether in the City or at a Distance, will be *Eight Shillings per Annum*, or for Fifty-two Papers; and, as small Payments are easiest, it is conditioned;—That one Fourth Part of the annual Price shall be paid on the Delivery of the First Number,—another Fourth Part on the Delivery of the Thirteenth Number,—and the Remainder at the End of the Year.

V. Post-Riders, and those Gentlemen who live at a Distance, and chuse to join in Company and send for their Papers to the Office, shall receive them at as low a Price as any News-Paper in the State.

WOODWARD & GREEN.

Middletown, Nov. 8, 1785.

BELFAST, August 2.

Two saddles of very extraordinary workmanship, the manufacture of Mr. Michael Harrison, of this place, saddler, are shipped in the Irish Volunteer, Capt. Wallace, for the use of General Washington.

LONDON, August 12.

By a letter from Bedford in Alsatia, dated July 10, *we are informed of the following traits of female heroism and presence of mind: Two dragoons of the regiment quartered there having deserted, and being destitute of money, they resolved to go to the first Gentleman's house they should see, off the high road, and soon perceiving the chateau of Mr. Muller, they immediately went to it. The hall door being open, they with the greatest unconcern walked up stairs and opened the first door they came to, which proved to be the bedchamber of the young lady of the house. The dragoon informed her of the motive of his visit, and insisted on having at least fifty Louis d'ors for himself and his companion. Miss Muller said that she had no money. The dragoon, to intimidate her, drew out a pistol, and swore he would lodge the contents in her body, if she did not instantly acquiesce. On this the other dragoon advanced towards the table at which the young lady was sitting, drew out a pistol and laid it down near her, and swore that if his comrade's pistol missed her, his should not. Miss Muller now got up, as if she was going to get the money, but stopping short, seized the pistol which had been imprudently laid on the table, fired at the dragoon who had the other loaded pistol in his hand, and as he fell ran up to him, wrenched his pistol from him, and presented it to the unarmed dragoon, telling him not to make the least motion, or she was determined to treat him as she had done his companion. The explosion of the pistol soon brought up the servants, the dragoon expired in a few minutes, and the surviving one was the same day conducted by the Mareschausse to his regiment, where he now lies under sentence of death.*

A very extraordinary affair happened on Saturday last in the city: A bricklayer had received five shillings in half pence as his wages, and, going into a public house, in Trinity-lane, to get a glass of gin, laid the bag of half pence on the bar; but on going away, missed it, and suspected a woman who had gone away, after having likewise had a glass of gin. Some of the people of the house went with him to her lodgings, hard by, and charged her with having taken away the half pence, which she denied positively; and added, that she wished "she might break her neck if she had stolen them."—She was then standing on the top of the stairs, and had scarcely uttered these words, before she fell down from the top to the bottom, and broke her neck. The poor man's money was afterwards found in her room. Overjoyed, perhaps, at the recovery of his money, he drank to intoxication on Sunday, and on Monday fell from a scaffold into the street, and was killed.

August 19. A letter from Paris, dated August 5, says, "The Count de Grasse has been at court; he was presented to the king and royal family by the mareschal de Castries, minister of the marine department, with whom the count afterwards dined. No one is surprised at this flattering reception, since it is known that Mr. de Castries has always avowedly been the friend and protector of the unfortunate prisoner of the English admiral."

The eldest daughter of the late General Scott is on her way to London, to take possession of his brother's estate, which amounts to about 60,000l. This gentleman died lately in Percy-street, and what is remarkable, expired with 50,000l. in his hands, which he firmly grasped till the last moment of his existence.

Miss Scott possesses an immense fortune. Her father accumulated 250,000l. by play, at which he was fortunate to a degree of astonishment. At his death he left 150,000l. to his eldest daughter, and 50,000l. to each of his other two female children.

The eldest of the three ladies above alluded to is about fourteen years of age; and by her father's will she is obliged to reject every proposal of marriage from a *peer*, as the General was resolved that the bulk of his fortune should not fall into the hands of a *cyphered* Nobleman.